WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a vehicle detector having circuitry powered by a source of electrical power for sensing changes in an associated inductive loop related to the presence of a vehicle in the vicinity of the loop and for generating a Call signal in response to such changes; the improvement comprising means for automatically performing a loop check for the associated inductive loop.

2. The invention of claim 1 wherein said means for automatically performing a loop check includes a check loop and switch means for selectively coupling said check loop to said vehicle detector.

3. The invention of claim 1 wherein said vehicle detector is a multi-channel detector having circuitry for generating Call signals for each channel; and wherein said means for automatically performing a loop check includes means for performing a loop check on each said channel.

4. The invention of claim 1 wherein said means for automatically performing a loop check includes means for displaying the result of a loop check.

5. The invention of claim 1 wherein said means for automatically performing a loop check includes additional testing circuitry for performing an iterative loop integrity test on a loop which failed the loop check.

Rule 1.126

6 ~~6~~. A method of testing the integrity of an inductive loop in a vehicle detector system; the method including the steps of periodically activating a check loop adjacent the inductive loop to simulat a vehicl load, and comparing values representative of inductive loop inductance values measured during different activation periods of the ch ck loop with a preselected value to determine the integrity of the inductive loop